



United States Senate

March 7, 2019

Ms. Jayne Harkins
Commissioner
U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission
4171 North Mesa Street
El Paso, Texas 79902

Dear Commissioner Harkins,

Thank you for meeting with me to discuss the important issue of pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.

During our meeting, I presented you with language included in the Fiscal Year 2019 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, which stated “The Secretary of State shall work with the IBWC Commissioner and the Government of Mexico to enhance efforts to mitigate pollution in the Tijuana River Valley.”

Since our meeting, that bill has been signed into law by the President, and I would like to follow up on the following provision requiring the IBWC to provide a public report to Congress on transboundary flows:

Transboundary Flows Report.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of the act, the IBWC shall submit a report to the Committee quantifying the total annual volume and composition of transboundary flows that enter the United States from Mexico in the Tijuana watershed, as well as the amount of time between each discharge from Mexico and the notification of the U.S. Government and local communities, as recorded, and to the extent known, by the IBWC. The report shall also include a description of steps taken by the IBWC and other relevant Federal agencies to implement additional mitigation measures to address increased flows in 2017 and 2018, including feasibility studies for sediment basins in the Tijuana River and tributary washes and the installation of additional trash booms in such river. The report shall be posted on the IBWC website concurrently with its submission to the Committee.

I would like to know if the IBWC is on track to meet the 180 day deadline for providing the report and if the IBWC has begun the coordination with the State Department required by the recently enacted law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your response. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Dianne Feinstein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dianne" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF:bk